Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid pump comprising:

- a piston that is axially displaceable within a cylinder;
- the cylinder comprising a cylinder closing fluid-transfer plate;
- the piston being displaced towards the fluid-transfer plate and capturing gas or fluid from a low-pressure environment; **[[and]]**
- the fluid pump comprising a sensor assembly that includes an inductive sensor associated with the fluid-transfer plate, the fluid-transfer plate being provided with a sealing joint;
- the fluid-transfer plate comprising a valve plate provided with a through-bore for association of a protector that cooperates with the bore, the sensor being positioned in contact with the low-pressure environment**, the valve plate further defining a recess in contact with the low-pressure environment and extending radially outwardly from the through-bore, and the sealing joint being disposed adjacent a surface of the valve plate in contact with the low-pressure environment**; and
- **at least a portion of** the protector being fixed between the sealing joint and **the recess defined in** the valve plate.

2. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 1, wherein the protector comprises at least one sensor cavity for associating the inductive sensor.

3. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 2, wherein the inductive sensor emits a magnetic field in the direction of the piston.

4. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 3, wherein the protector comprises a fitting portion, an open portion, and a closed portion, the fitting portion being cooperatively associated with the bore, the closed portion aligning with the inner face of the cylinder, and the open portion comprising the sensor cavity.

5. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 4, wherein the valve plate comprises a suction valve associated with a low-pressure environment and a discharge valve associated with a high-pressure environment, and still in that the open portion is in contact with the low-pressure environment and the closed portion is in contact with the high-pressure environment.

6. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 5, wherein the protector has substantially the same shape as the cavity.

7. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 1, wherein the protector is built with a material having low magnetic permeability.

8. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 1, wherein the sensor is fixed to the closed portion of the protector.

9.-10. (Canceled)

11. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid-transfer plate applicable to a fluid pump, comprising:

- a valve plate provided with a through-bore for association with a protector that cooperates with the bore,

- the protector comprising at least one sensor cavity configured for receiving an inductive sensor therein, and

- the valve plate comprising recesses for fixing the protector, the protector comprising protuberant ends and being fixed to the valve plate by means of a sealing joint, the protuberant ends being associable with the recesses in the valve plate **and the sealing joint, the sealing joint being disposed adjacent the valve plate, wherein at least a portion of the protuberant ends are disposed between the recesses in the valve plate and the sealing joint**.

12. (Previously Presented) A fluid-transfer plate according to claim 11, wherein the protector comprises a fitting portion, an open portion and a closed portion, the fitting portion being cooperatively associated with the bore, the closed portion aligning with an inner face of the cylinder, and the open portion comprising the sensor cavity.

13.-14. (Canceled)

15. **(Currently Amended)** An inductive sensor and fluid pump assembly, the assembly comprising:

the inductive sensor for detecting the position of a piston in the fluid pump, the piston being axially displaceable in a cylinder, **and**

the fluid pump comprising **a fluid-transfer plate, the fluid-transfer plate comprising** a valve plate, the inductive sensor being installed on a protector, the protector being fixed to a through-bore provided in the valve plate, the valve plate comprising recesses for fixing the protector, the protector comprising protuberant ends configured such that outer surfaces of the protuberant ends are aligned with an outer surface of the valve plate **and at least a portion of the protuberant ends are disposed between the recesses and a surface of a sealing joint that is disposed adjacent the outer surface of the valve plate**.

16.-19. **(Canceled)**

20. (Previously Presented) A fluid pump according to claim 1, wherein the valve plate comprises recesses for fixing the protector, the protector comprising protuberant ends configured such that a surface of the protector is aligned with a surface of the valve plate at the low-pressure environment, the sealing joint being configured such that edges of the sealing joint are placed substantially over the protuberant ends.